

## Golam Azam's inordinate delay inexcusable: AG

Attorney General Aminul Huq yesterday told the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that Golam Azam was guilty of making inordinate delay in filing a writ challenging the cancellation of his citizenship, reports BSS.

Making argument before the court during the sixth day's hearing on the appeal against the verdict of the High Court division restoring the citizenship of Golam Azam, the Attorney General submitted that instead of filing the writ in time Azam had stayed abroad and then come to Bangladesh with a Pakistani passport and extended his visa twice.

The Attorney General said that after the scrapping of Golam Azam's citizenship a number of regimes had passed during the last 20 years yet he did not file any writ during that long period challenging the impugned notification.

He said, Golam Azam cannot justify his inordinate delay in filing the writ as he could have filed it before the High Court long ago under his constituted power of attorney even when he was abroad.

The Attorney General cited a case filed by the then Air Vice-Marshal M A G Tawab after he was deported from the Dhaka airport during the regime of Ziaur Rahman.

He said after he was denied entry into Bangladesh, Tawab had gone back abroad and filed a case through his constituted power of attorney through a relative challenging obstruction to his entering the country. The High Court, in its verdict, had declared the government decision to deport Tawab from the airport as 'Ultra vires' on unconstitutional, he added.

Attorney General Huq said Golam Azam knew it well that a birth right, is claimed by him, had ceased. Therefore, he ought to have come before the court much earlier.

He argued that Golam Azam did not avail of the opportunity to come to Bangladesh under the tripartite agreement among Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in which a sentence mentioned 'forgive and forget' nor did he avail the opportunity to return under the repatriation programme under which many people came back to Bangladesh from abroad.

The Attorney General said that till yesterday Golam Azam and his party the Jamaat-e-Islami had not expressed any regret for what they had done in 1971.

Replying to a query from the court, the Attorney General referred to Article 3 of the Citizenship Order and submitted that in case of doubt as to whether a person qualified to be deemed as a citizen of Bangladesh under Article 2 of this Order, the question shall be decided by the government and that decision shall be final.

He said since its enactment this article was applied only once in disqualifying the citizenship of 39 persons.

The Attorney General argued that the government had acted fairly and there was no violation of natural justice with regard to scrapping of Golam Azam's citizenship.

In support of his contention the Attorney General referred to Halsbury's Accounts of All-England laws and said prior notice is required only when it is necessary but this is not applicable in Golam Azam's case, he said.

The Attorney General submitted that if the person aggrieved is aware of the case against him prior notice is not necessary.

He further said the Golam Azam was out of the country and the petition itself speaks that he had been to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Libya and London. Therefore, it was not practicable for the government to serve notice upon him, he argued.

The Attorney General said in emergency circumstances, service of notice is not necessary.

He explained before the court the activities of Golam Azam against Bangladesh while he was staying abroad.

The Attorney General referred to the findings and observations in the judgement of the three High Court judges and affirmed his submission with the findings of Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar who observed that the principle of natural justice had not been violated with regard to Golam Azam.

The Attorney General was assisted by Deputy Attorney General A F Hasan Arif, Assistant Attorney Generals Sharifuddin Chaklader and Mir Hashmat Ali and Obaidur Rahman Mustafa while A R Yusuf, Abdur Razzak and Nawab Ali appeared for Golam Azam.

The court resumes hearing today.

## Teachers urged to continue boycott of SSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Liaison Committee for teachers' movement yesterday said that the ongoing movement of non-government school and college teachers could not be foiled by resorting to repression.

In a joint statement, Liaison Committee conveners Principal Md Kamruzzaman, Sheikh Amanullah and Dr M Akhtaruzzaman and Coordinator Principal Kazi Faruk Ahmed urged the teachers community to continue non-cooperation with the government in conducting the SSC examination.

They said that if the teachers were repressed using the Anti-terrorism Act, it would intensify the movement instead of foiling it.

## Iqbaluddin's bail prayer rejected

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday rejected the bail petition of Iqbaluddin Ahmed and sent him to central jail when he was produced before the court after 2 days police remand, reports UNB.

Iqbaluddin, a student of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, was arrested on May 11 in connection with the theft of some rare paintings of the Shilpacharya.

The court also rejected police prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

Seventeen paintings of Joy-nal Abedin were stolen from the Art Gallery in Mymensingh on May 2, 1992. Mrs Jahanara Abedin recognised the stolen paintings of her late husband.

## Strikes, labour unrest

From Page 1 Col 8 today, you will have to face the same problem when you will be in power", Saifur said referring to the opposition political parties.

He said that the privatisation programme was a must for the country because it was not possible for the government to run business, he said. Business should be done by the private sector and the government can play only a supportive role by way of infrastructure building, he said, adding that the public sector enterprises all over the world are loss-making enterprises. Bangladesh is not an exception in this regard, he said.

The losses incurred by the public sector enterprises are being covered by the money collected from the people as tax, which should not continue further, he said.

Dwelling on the problems of privatisation, Saifur said the unpleasant experience of privatisation in the past has acted as one of the major hindrances in implementing the programme. Another problem is the lack of entrepreneurs who have the fund to purchase the enterprises, he said and added the private sector is to be further developed to take the lead in industrialisation.

He said the obsolete or old

machinery of the public enterprises are not worth purchasing. The problem is acute in the textile sector, no buyer is interested in purchasing the old, and outdated machinery of the textile units in the public sector, he said.

Referring to the emergence of some young and efficient entrepreneurs, he said they have the capacity to run the enterprises, but they are in shortage of fund. The government wanted to promote such entrepreneurship, he pointed out.

The Finance Minister was, however, very critical of the role of the bureaucrats. They do not want the public enterprises to be privatised, he said. "I asked the managements of some of the public enterprises to float some shares in the stock exchange for public purchase. But they did not do so. Because the bureaucracy does not want to cut their power", Saifur said.

He, however, said the government has been trying to overcome all the problems as there is no alternative to privatisation.

Presided over by Shaikh A Hafiz, President of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi, the meeting was attended by Iftekharul Alam, M Mahbubuzzaman, Emdadul Huq and Nurul Islam.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



A street vendor's booth in Sarajevo yesterday displays a variety of flags, including British, American, and a new version of the Croatian colours (left centre) that includes the national emblems of both Croatia and Bosnia.

— AFP photo

## Polls observers submit proposal to EC

By Staff Correspondent

A group claiming experience in the monitoring of elections in some SAARC countries has recommended that two or three more general elections in the country be held under a caretaker government as the spectre of rigging 'has not disappeared in Bangladesh'.

Advocating the demand for a caretaker government, some members of the group, in a set of recommendations to the Election Commission (EC), said 'public opinion, generally, seems to be supporting the demand'.

The proposals were submitted to the EC by ten of the 40-member SAARC non-government observers group that visited Pakistan to observe the country's National Assembly elections late last year. A copy of the recommendations was made available to The Daily Star yesterday.

The Bangladeshi members of the SAARC observation team were former chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, journalist K G Mustafa, Justice K M Subhan, former advisor to the acting president Fakhruddin Ahmed, Dr Gowher Rizvi, advocates Sultana Kamal, Fouzia Karim Firoze, and Sara Kamal and NGO representative Mahbooba Akhtar Mahmood.

The other suggestions, made by the team, include introduction of identity cards for the voters, appointment of all returning officers from the judiciary, engaging female election officials, freeing the electronic media from state control, training for the election officials, educating the voters on election rules, giving more powers to the Election Commission, election of the Speaker through secret ballot, and relaxation of rules relating to floor crossing of the MPs.

## Ahad

From Page 1 Col 5 the Tagore songs and also composed some of the songs of the great poet during Tagore's life time.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor. Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

His career as a music director for films began in the late Forties when he first directed music for the film Dukkhey Jader Jiban Gara in Calcutta.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night expressed her deep shock at the death of Abdul Ahad.

In a condolence message, the Prime Minister recalled the contributions of Ahad in enriching the field of music in Bangladesh and said in his death the country had lost a man of great stature in our cultural arena.

The Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad yesterday appealed to the government for burying Abdul Ahad with due honour.

## 4.6 tonnes of opium, hashish seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 15: Pakistani police said today they had seized 4.6 tonnes of opium and hashish in separate incidents at the weekend, reports AFP.

Some 4,200 kilograms (9,250 pounds) of hashish was found in secret cavities on the tanker lorry which was intercepted by police late Saturday on a highway checkpoint.

## Israeli forces withdraw from all but Gaza City

By Staff Correspondent

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip, May 15: Israeli forces have completed their withdrawal from all but the centre of Gaza City by Sunday and that was expected to be evacuated by midnight Tuesday, as part of their redeployment from autonomous Palestinian areas. PLO officials said, reports AFP.

The Israelis held just two square kilometres (0.8 sq miles) in the Rimal Quarter which houses the military administration, a jail, the governor's headquarters, police station, police barracks, a military camp and a document office.

"There are just these seven places left to evacuate and I think they will have fully completed their withdrawal by Tuesday midnight," a senior PLO official told AFP.

"On Wednesday morning there will not be any Israelis in the town. The withdrawal will doubtlessly take place in the night because they want to avoid trouble."

All the other positions have been evacuated since Monday night, leaving the new Palestinian police force in charge of all but the Jewish settlements on the Strip.

An army spokesman said 1,324 members of the force had entered the Strip from Egypt and 300 more from Jordan since Tuesday night. Another 426 Palestinian policemen have arrived in Jericho to maintain order. Their Commander General Hajj Ismail said.

A total of 7,000 police are due to enter the autonomous enclaves and join 2,000 locally-recruited officers in the new force.

After 27 years of occupation the army is redeploying around the Gaza to protect the 4,000 settlers during the five year interim period of autonomy.

The High Court bench, comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Hamidul Huq, after hearing the case yesterday, said that since public sentiment is linked with the matter, it should be heard in detail after the Eid vacation.

The situation created following propagation of the fatwa was not at all favourable for the exercise of voting rights by women of the area, the complainant said.

Babina Akhtar, along with two other female voters, also brought the matter to the notice of the returning officer in writing on the election day. Complaints were lodged by 29 other women with the presiding officer of a polling centre in the area the same day.

Babina Akhtar in her petition accused all the Chairmen and Member candidates of being involved in creating the unhealthy situation.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association assisted the complainant in filing the case.

Advocate Salma Ali, Advocate A B Siddiqi, Advocate Syeda Afsar Jahan, Advocate Naharin Parvin and Advocate Sima Jahur are conducting the case on behalf of the complainant.

The High Court bench, comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Hamidul Huq, after hearing the case yesterday, said that since public sentiment is linked with the matter, it should be heard in detail after the Eid vacation.

The first International Day of the Families was observed in the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday, reports BSS.

A colourful rally led by State Minister for Social Welfare Md Fazlur Rahman was brought out in the city marking the day.

The rally started at 8 am from the Bangladesh Sishu Academy and ended at the Osmany Memorial Hall premises.

The participants of the rally included officials of Social Welfare Ministry, Social Service Department and orphans from different orphanages.

Dr Nurul Safa, a defeated candidate, filed the case in the court of he first Additional District Judge, Chittagong, following the 1991 Parliament elections. Nazibul Bashar won the seat from Fatikchhari.

The employees of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) will announce their next course of action at a rally early next month.

An extended meeting of the Civil Aviation Karmachari Oikya Jote decided to hold the rally on June 8 after observing other programmes.

The Jote leaders would start their mass-contact programme from today and the employees would wear black badges for three days from May 29.

The employees have been agitating for the past several months to realise their 17-point charter of demands, including profit bonus, aviation allowance and the right to form a trade union.

Jote president A T M Abdul Hye, general secretary Sirajul Islam, executive president Indrajit Kumar Ghosh and adviser Syed Mostaq Hossain Ratan spoke at the extended meeting.

## BNP MP denies Tofael's charge

Shamsunnahar Ahmed MP (women constituency 9) yesterday protested the concocted information spread by Awami League MP Tofael Ahmed about herself and her family, reports BSS.

In a statement in Dhaka Mrs Shamsunnahar refuted the allegation made against her by the Awami League leader at a press conference at the conference room of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan on May 11.

Referring to the allegation made by Tofael Ahmed that she was holding the office of the principal of both the Magura Women's College and Kamarkhali Degree College Mrs Shamsunnahar said any conscious citizen could realize that such a situation was never possible in the reality.

Clarifying, Shamsunnahar said, "I joined as the Principal of the Kamarkhali Degree College on May 14, 1979 and I am working there till today. On the other hand the Magura Women's College at the higher secondary level was set up in 1987. I was nominated for the women constituency no. 9 (Magura-Jhenidah-Narail) by the BNP in 1991. Afterwards, I became ex-officio chairman of the governing body of the Magura Women's College in place of the deputy commissioner through a memorandum 18 college 2/3G1/90/307/A (4) dated 20.6.91.

The office of the principal of the women's college fell vacant due to transfer of the husband of the first principal of the college Alia Chowdhury and since then Khairuzzaman Khokon is holding the charge of the acting principal.

The position for principal was advertised in The Daily Runner on 21.8.93 and the Daily Inquilab issue of 12.9.93 and subsequently interviews were held and soon the appointment will be finalised.

She said, "Under such circumstances I strongly protest the imaginary, concocted and lies dish out by Tofael at the press conference. I reject in unequivocal term the lies uttered by the Awami League MP and at the same time strongly condemn the indecent attempt made by him to belittle the image of a Member of Parliament before the eyes of the nation."

## Warrant of arrest against Walie Ashraf

The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday ordered warrant of arrest against A T M Walie Ashraf, a sitting MP of the ruling BNP upon a defamation case filed by Advocate K M Zabir, reports UNB.

The complainant K M Zabir in his petition said, in a news published in the 'Daily Janakantha' on March 29, 1994 Walie Ashraf had described him (complainant) as 'Vote Dakatir Neta'.

It was stated in the petition that the report was false, baseless and published with an ulterior motive to lower his image.

On hearing the petitioner and examining the report, the ACMM issued the order.

## Hearing of election case against AL MP deferred

By Staff Correspondent

A High Court division bench yesterday deferred for two months the hearing of an election case, now before a tribunal in Chittagong, against Awami League MP Syed Nazibul Bashar Maibzhandari.

Dr Nurul Safa, a defeated candidate, filed the case in the court of he first Additional District Judge, Chittagong, following the 1991 Parliament elections. Nazibul Bashar won the seat from Fatikchhari.

## Farakka

From Page 1 Col 4 Bhasani, addressed the gathering at about 10 am. Then the 'Long March' started under his leadership. About four miles long, the procession crossed the river Mahananda at Chapai Nawabganj before ending at the Kansat border post, very close to Farakka. There Maulana Bhasani again addressed a gathering of lakhs of enthusiastic people.

He demanded due share of the Ganges water. He said that the river water was a gift of Allah for humans and none had the right to deprive anyone of it. The Moulana also urged the United Nations to take steps to ensure due share of the water of the mighty river.

Since that day, the situation in northern Bangladesh has aggravated due to the Farakka barrage. One-third of the country is gradually being desertified. The environment has changed adversely. About 40 rivers have already dried up. The ground water level has gone down to 65 ft against a previously normal range of 20-30 ft.

According to the Water Development Board, the yearly loss in terms of agriculture, fisheries, etc. is about Tk 5,000 crores.

## The Midnight File

### Christopher to visit Jericho

DAMASCUS, May 15: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said today he intends to visit the Palestinian self-governing enclave of Jericho this week to check on how self-rule is being implemented. Briefing reporters on his plane to Damascus, Christopher said he had consulted Israel and other before deciding to make the trip. "But ultimately it had to be my decision," he said, reports Reuter.

### Fierce fighting in Kigali

NAIROBI, May 15: Fierce fighting erupted in Rwanda's capital Sunday after a four-day lull and rebels were reported advancing on Gitarama, temporary seat of the interim government. Rebel artillery and mortar shells pounded areas around Kigali's airport, the defence ministry building and other government offices, said Abdul Kabia, a UN spokesman in the capital.

A UN plane carrying food and medicine was forced to turn back to Nairobi, but a second plane landed during a brief lull in the shelling, Kabia said, reports AP.

## Storms lash districts

From Page 1 Col 7 tensive damage to property and crops.

Officials and villagers said at least 10 people were also injured in the storm which lashed Daulatpur, Shibhalaya and Ghior thanas. It destroyed about 200 houses, standing crops in several acres of land and disrupted power supply.

They said two people had been missing since their union-laden mechanised boat, coming from Pabna to Aricha ghat, was overturned in river Jamuna by the storm.

They were identified as boatman Baten, 25, and Akkas Ali, 35, a businessman.

Four ferries under repair on a floating BIWTA workshop in the Jamuna blew away and hit three other ferry vessels at Nehalpur ghat damaging them severely.

Many trees were uprooted by the storm that blew at a speed of 70 to 80 kilometres

per hour.

Goral union of Kaliganj thana and chars of Teesta river adjacent to Bodmari union were the worst-affected areas.

The wireless tower of Hatibandha thana and many shanties at a slum at Namatari in Sadar thana were battered.

In Jhenidah, at least 25 people were injured and about 1000 thatched houses damaged when a tropical storm hit the Sadar thana Saturday night.

A large number trees were uprooted and standing crops on a vast track of land damaged during the storm, witnesses said.

A storm accompanied by lightning, hails and heavy rain swept over five thanas of the district yesterday and injured seven people, official sources said.

The storms struck Raiganj, Ullapara, Shahajadpur, Kamarkhand and Sadar thanas in the evening, destroying over 300 thatched houses totally and uprooted several trees on the New Bogra Road.

## Agri Ministry

From Page 1 Col 5

said that the government took steps following a decision of the cabinet to sell in full all irrigation pumps and spare parts stored in the BADC godowns through open tender.

In the light of that decision, the open sale auction of Kibota spare parts lying at the central store of the BADC at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, was held through auctioneers on January 17, 1994.

The statement added, all procedural formalities and principles regarding auction were observed before the open bid.

The auctioneer was appointed by the BADC head office and adequate publicity was given through radio, television, newspapers, cinema slides in cinema halls and making to inform the people before the auction was held. Local committees were formed all over the country for sale of these BADC irrigation spare parts following the cabinet decision and in the light of recommendations of these committees open auctions were held for sale of these spare parts in strict adherence to the government guidelines, the ministry stated.

The Agriculture Ministry described the news item regarding sale of Kibota engine spares without tender as published in a section of yesterday's press based on Tofael Ahmed's allegations as totally baseless.

## 6 killed

From Page 1 Col 3

taken to the Narayanganj General Hospital where the doctors declared them dead.

Among the injured, the conditions of 17 were serious. Of them, eight were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and nine others to different hospitals of Dhaka and Narayanganj.

The names of those admitted to the DMCH are: Nargis (26), Srimali (40), Tajunnesa (40), Anwar Hossain (16), Sarifa Begum (39), Ariful Islam Bakul (8), Mira Sikder (22) and Farid Hossain (20).

The driver of the minibus is absconding.

A case was filed with the Fatulla thana in this connection.

## Buriganga

From Page 1 Col 4

solid and liquid wastes into the water, the report said.

The DOE officials said they have identified a number of industries along the bank of the Buriganga polluting its waters by disposing wastes.

Most of the factories and industrial units along the river bank have no waste treatment plants, and many of them were even unaware that they are spoiling the water, they pointed out.

No action can be taken against these polluters due to lack of necessary laws. One DOE official quipped "We are like paper tigers, because we cannot bite."

A draft law was prepared by the Environment Ministry long ago to protect and develop the country's eco-system.

The draft law is now under active consideration of the government, said officials at the Environment Ministry.

per hour.

Goral union of Kaliganj thana and chars of Teesta river adjacent to Bodmari union were the worst-affected areas.

The wireless tower of Hatibandha thana and many shanties at a slum at Namatari in Sadar thana were battered.

In Jhenidah, at least 25 people were injured and about 1000 thatched houses damaged when a tropical storm hit the Sadar thana Saturday night.

A large number trees were uprooted and standing crops on a vast track of land damaged during the storm, witnesses said.

A storm accompanied by lightning, hails and heavy rain swept over five thanas of the district yesterday and injured seven people, official sources said.

The storms struck Raiganj, Ullapara, Shahajadpur, Kamarkhand and Sadar thanas in the evening, destroying over 300 thatched houses totally and uprooted several trees on the New Bogra Road.

## Businessman

From Page 1 Col 5

was detained in the city's detective branch (DB) office.

Customs officials hauled 57 kilograms of gold worth about Tk 3.13 crore at ZIA on November 10.

Police arrested five suspects, including a driver of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Abdul Majid Hawlader who carried the gold into the airport's apron area.

The gold was brought on a flight from Muscat. Two passengers who are yet to be identified threw two bags containing the gold into a microbus which was being driven by Majid who, according to sources, was not on duty on the day.

A security guard, Moslem Ali, in a daring chase held Majid and recovered the gold